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Judicial Council to Consider Trial Court Budget Priorities, New Courthouse Standards

Public Meeting to be Held April 21 in San Francisco; Honors for Chief Justice George on 10th Year in Office

San Francisco—When the Judicial Council of California meets on Friday, April 21, for its public business meeting, it will consider two items of major interest to the California trial courts: budget priorities for fiscal year 2006-2007 and standards for building and renovating courthouses.

Both items are part of a longer agenda that will come before the 28-member council, the administrative policymaking body of the California courts chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George.

A special ceremony also will be held at 10:20 a.m. to honor Chief Justice George on his tenth anniversary as the Chief Justice of California. Several members of the Judicial Council will speak and a resolution will be presented to the Chief Justice in honor of his accomplishments during the past decade.

The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. at the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, third floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. It will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>.

Reports to be considered by the council as part of its discussion agenda include:

- **Trial Court Facilities:** Standards are recommended that would be used in the design and construction of new and renovated trial court facilities in California. If adopted, they would replace the trial court facility guidelines adopted in 2002.
- **Trial Court Budget:** As part of the budget planning process for trial courts in fiscal year 2006-2007, priorities are recommended for trial court program areas. When priorities are approved, courts will report their funding needs for designated areas. After the 2006 Budget Act is enacted and the amount of funding for trial courts is known, the council will consider trial court allocations.

- **Temporary Judges:** The Temporary Judges Working Group will report that most of the rules on disclosures and disqualifications of temporary judges that were referred to the Supreme Court are likely to be included in the Code of Judicial Ethics. The working group also will recommend that additional amendments be made to the California Rules of Court concerning procedures for disqualifying temporary judges and limitations on their use in certain situations.
- **Administrative Infrastructure:** The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will present status reports on statewide infrastructure programs that are designed to benefit the state courts, including the Court Accounting and Reporting System (CARS), the Court Human Resources Information System (CHRIS), and the California Case Management System (CCMS).

The meeting agenda and reports may be viewed on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age042106.pdf.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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